CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History Matters

September/October 2025

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- Looking to the Future

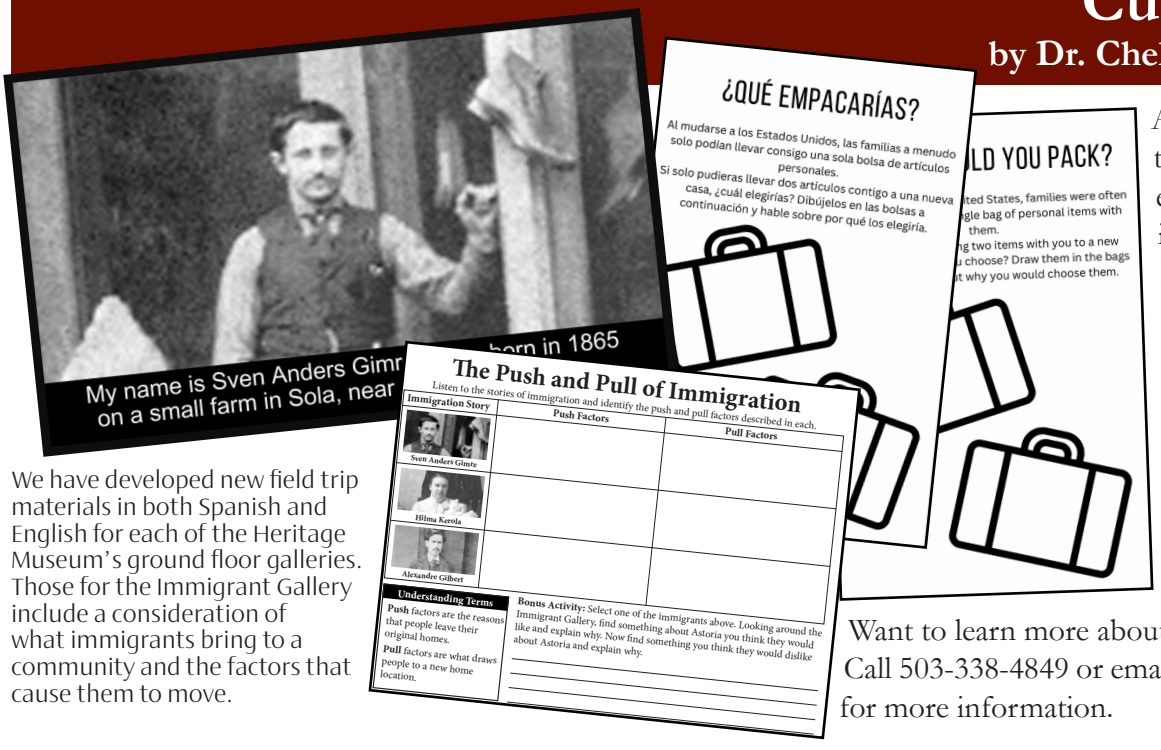
Thank You Flavel House Garden Society

The Flavel House Garden Society continues their amazing transformation of the Flavel House grounds! Join them Wednesdays from 1-3pm to hone your gardening skills under the guidance of a master gardener while beautifying the Flavel House grounds. More information available through the Flavel House Garden Society's Facebook page.

Evidence of the Flavel House Garden Society's efforts abound! [l-r] The Flavel House pond as it appeared in 2023, the pond now, and a detail view of the yard.

Curator's Corner

by Dr. Chelsea K. Vaughn, Curator


My name is Sven Anders Gimr
on a small farm in Sola, near
born in 1865
¿QUÉ EMPACARÍAS?
Al mudarse a los Estados Unidos, las familias a menudo solo podían llevar consigo una sola bolsa de artículos personales.
Si solo pudieras llevar dos artículos contigo a una nueva casa, ¿cuál elegirías? Dibújelos en las bolsas a continuación y hable sobre por qué los elegiría.
LD YOU PACK?
ted States, families were often
gle bag of personal items with
them.
g two items with you to a new
u choose? Draw them in the bags
t why you would choose them.
The Push and Pull of Immigration
Listen to the stories of immigration and identify the push and pull factors described in each.
Immigration Story
Push Factors
Pull Factors
Sven Anders Gimre
Hilma Kerola
Alexandre Gilbert
Understanding Terms
Push factors are the reasons that people leave their original homes.
Pull factors are what draws people to a new home location.
Bonus Activity: Select one of the immigrants above. Looking around the Immigrant Gallery, find something about Astoria you think they would like and explain why. Now find something you think they would dislike about Astoria and explain why.

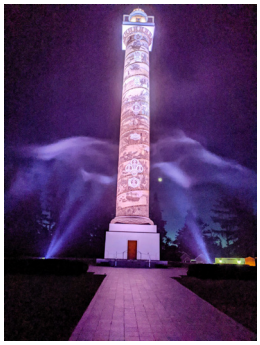
We have developed new field trip materials in both Spanish and English for each of the Heritage Museum's ground floor galleries. Those for the Immigrant Gallery include a consideration of what immigrants bring to a community and the factors that cause them to move.

As curator, I am always trying to find new ways for visitors to engage with our museums. It is in that spirit that my team and I developed new educational offerings for elementary school field trips to the Heritage Museum. Geared toward mid and upper level elementary students, these activities help students explore our museum galleries and gain a better understanding of local history.

Want to learn more about our new field trip offerings? Call 503-338-4849 or email curator@astoriamuseums.org for more information.

Astoria Column turns 100 in 2026

Help us celebrate next year's centennial of the Astoria Column by contributing your own Column photos to our collection. Either upload your photos using the QR code or bring them by the Heritage Museum (1618 Exchange Street), and we can scan them for you. So far, we have gathered more than 150 historic and contemporary photos. Thank you to everyone who has already shared their photos! For more information call 503-338-4849 or email curator@astoriamuseums.org.



Visitor contributed photos. Thank you!

Upload your own photos of the Astoria Column!

Aster Dean [left] and Zoey Ahl [right] each pose with Chinese medicine bottles uncovered at a local site.

Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project Archeological Field School

The Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project (OCDP), in conjunction with the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology (SOULA), enjoyed a successful field school in Astoria over the summer, with CCHS employees Aster Dean and Zoey Ahl taking part.

Learn more about the OCDP and the important work that they do: https://oregon-chinese-diaspora-project-sou.hub.arcgis.com/

SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
LABORATORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

OCDP OREGON CHINESE DIASPORA PROJECT

Victorian All Hallowe'en

October again brings Halloween—or "All Hallowe'en" as the Victorians knew the holiday—to the Flavel House. Throughout the month, the museum's rooms will feature spooky, Victorian-era entertainments commonly used to predict the future or commune with the spirit realm. An in-house scavenger hunt will direct visitors to these eerie items. Are you (un)lucky enough to find all 13?

Popular activities included [l-r] spirit photography (here featuring Katie and Nellie Flavel), fortune telling, and reading scary stories.

Thursday Night Talks

October also brings our monthly Thursday Night Talks (TNT) Lecture Series back to the Lovell Showroom at Fort George Brewery. Join us the third Thursday of every month to learn about interesting and often little-known aspects of area history presented by the resident experts. Look for an exciting season ahead of speakers and topics!

Lovell Showroom at Fort George Brewery. Doors open at 6. Talk begins at 7.

Wooden grave marker for Lucretia Edens (1861-1896) greets visitors at the Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery.

Talking Tombstones

The Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery provides the final resting place for many of the area's first immigrants. It also serves as the site for this year's Talking Tombstones. A perennial favorite, Talking Tombstones combines history and performance to offer viewers a more intimate look into the lives lived by the area's deceased. Come and hear of days gone by as costumed reenactors bring this early history to life!

Sunday October 26, Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery, 1-4pm.

Digital Archive News

by Julie Burpee, Digital Archivist

We now have more than 35 sub-collections within our digital archive. These are groupings of items related to important local organizations and historical locations. Among these are a sub-collection for Clatsop Plains, the site of this year's Talking Tombstones. Doing area research ahead of Talking Tombstones? This is a great place to start. Simply want to learn more about this community south of Astoria? Follow the QR link to find this and other collections.

Browse our digital collections to learn more of Clatsop County's past.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Upcoming Events

October 1-31: Halloween at the Flavel House, open daily, 10am-4pm, regular admission applies. Buy tickets at the Carriage House, 714 Exchange Street.

October 16: *TNT*, Fort George Brewery Lovell Taproom, 1483 Duane Street, doors open at 6.

October 26: *Talking Tombstones*, Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery, Warrenton, 1-4.

Ongoing Events

Sundays, 8:30-9pm: Mac Burns and Alana Kujala host *An Adventure in History* on KMUN.

Wednesdays at 1pm: Flavel House Garden Society Volunteers meet at the Flavel House Grounds.

Now through February 2026: *Double Vision: The Art and Science of Optical Illusions in Clatsop County* and *"Quiet on Set!" Behind the Scenes with the Goonies* exhibits at the Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange Street.

Coming Up…

November 14: 3rd Annual Oregon Film Museum Selig Award, Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial Street.

Taylor School in Uniontown

Serving grade-school aged students during the first three decades of the twentieth century, Taylor School in Uniontown overlooked the Columbia River near the current site of the Astoria-Megler Bridge. Torn down in the early 1930s, wood and other materials were salvaged, floated across the river, and used to build a home in Naselle, Washington.